

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TRIPOL 00624 01 OF 02 111330 Z

43

ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 EUR-10 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 PRS-01 VO-01 SCA-01 PPT-01 L-02

CPR-01 IO-03 NEA-06 EB-03 RSR-01 CU-03 /073 W
----- 035497

P R 111157 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0060

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 TRIPOLI 0624

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CPAS CVIS NATO LY US

SUBJECT: PASSPORTS: NATO COM' S MEETING TRIPOLI MAY 10

REF: TRIPOLI 0559

SUMMARY: FACED BY THE PROSPECT OF LOSING MOST OF THEIR
STAFF THIS SUMMER, OR ELSE REFUSING THEM LEAVE OUT OF COUNTRY,
NATO COM' S HERE FINALLY REACHED A CONSENSUS ON WHAT THEY WOULD
RECOMMEND TO THEIR GOVTS FOR A POSITION TO TAKE AT NEXT POLADS
MTG ON SUBJECT OF LARG PASSPORT DEMANDS. THEIR PROPOSAL IS
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PAGE 02 TRIPOL 00624 01 OF 02 111330 Z

BOTH A COMPROMISE AND A FORM OF RETALIATION. IT MAY NOT BE A SOLUTION TO PROBLEM OF DIPLOMATS' TRAVEL HERE, BUT IT IS A UNIQUE DEMONSTRATION OF ALLIED UNITY, FOR A CHANGE, AND AS SUCH I SUBSCRIBE TO IT.

1. REFTEL DESCRIBED APRIL 30 SESSION CERTAIN NATO COM' S HERE AT ITALIAN AMB' S RESIDENCE. SESSION CALLED ONLY TWO DAYS AFTER LARG REIMPOSED VIRTUAL BAN ON ENTRY OF FOREIGNERS WITHOUT ARABIC IN THEIR PASSPORTS. MAJOR RECOMMENDATIONS WERE TO TAKE TOUGH LINE AND GENERATE NATO ACTION ON SUBJECT. SINCE THEN APPEARS LARG HAS CALLED SHOTS INSTEAD.

2. MEANWHILE NATO COM' S HERE BEEN IN CONSTANT BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS. NOT FAMILIAR WITH ALL THE BY-PLAY, BUT ONE CAMPAIGN, TO WHICH I CONTRIBUTED, WAS TO CALL ON DEAN OF CORPS, SAUDI AMB, TO URGE HIM TAKE UP PROBLEMS RE TREATMENT AND TRAVEL OF DIPLOMATS WITH THE MFA. HE WAS FINALLY MOVED TO REQUEST APPT WITH ACTING FORMIN AND WILL SEE HIM MAY 12. LINE HE SAYS HE WILL TAKE IS ONE WE FOSTERED: LARG MUST MAKE UP ITS MIND ABOUT RESIDENT DIPLOMATS. EITHER IT WANTS THEM TO LEAVE, PERHAPS IN ANTICIPATION OF UNITY WITH EGYPT SEPT 1, OR IT WANTS THEM TO STAY. IN FIRST CASE, CORPS DESERVES AN OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION SO THAT PLANS CAN BE MADE FOR ORDERLY CHANGES. IN SECOND CASE, LARG MUST SHOULDER ITS RESPONSIBILITY AND ACCORD ACCREDITED DIPLOMATS ALL NORMAL RIGHTS AND COURTESIES, AT LEAST TILL SEPT 1.

3. ANOTHER CAMPAIGN HAS BEEN TO TRY TO GET SOME UNANIMITY IN NATO GROUP HERE ON WHAT TO RECOMMEND TO OUR GOVTS. QUESTION OF LEADERSHIP TOOK SOME TIME TO SORT OUT. AT FIRST I WAS APPROACHED BY SEVERAL COM' S, AND DECLINED. ITALIANS AND BRITISH THEN SEEMED PREPARED, AND NO DOUBT BELGIANS AND FRENCH WERE CONSIDERED. FINALLY FRG AMB WERNER CONVENED GROUP ON MAY 10, FIRST MAKING A BOW TO BELGIAN AMB TO TAKE CHAIR (NO DOUBT IN HIS EEC CAPACITY). HE SAID HE WAS TOO NEW HERE.

4. ATTENDING WERE ALL NINE NATO COM' S RESIDENT HERE: BELGIAN AMB, DUTCH CHARGE, FRENCH AMB, GERMAN AMB, GREEK AMB, ITALIAN AMB, TURKISH AMB, UK AMB, U. S. CHARGE. DISCUSSIONS
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PAGE 03 TRIPOL 00624 01 OF 02 111330 Z

LASTED TWO HOURS. ONLY HIGHLIGHTS PROVIDED HERE.

A. IT AGREED SAUDI' S GESTURE OF HELPFULNESS TO US, WHILE APPRECIATED, WOULD BE COMPLETELY INEFFECTUAL. FOR ONE THING, ACTING FONMIN HAS NO DECISION- MAKING AUTHORITY.

B. SITUATION FOR NON- OFFICIALS IS RAPIDLY RETURNING TO STATUS QUO ANTE THE APRIL 28 BAN. E. G., MFA HAS PROMISED THAT DEPENDENTS OF EXEMPTED PERSONS WILL SOON BE EXEMPTED TOO. REMAINING PROBLEMS THEREFORE ARE TOURISTS, MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESSMEN, AND ABOVE ALL DIPLOMATS, ESPECIALLY RESIDENT DIPLOMATS. THIS IS NO DOUBT EXACTLY WHAT QADHAFI AND CAPT. SHU' AYB INTEND, AS WE ARE SYMBOLS OF FOREIGN GOVT VULNERABILITY TO LARG DEMANDS FOR RECOGNITION OF ARABIC BY FOREIGN GOVTS.

C. WERNER HAD CALLED ON MFA U/ S NASS TO DISCUSS SITUATION AND ARRIVAL HIS DCM SET FOR MAY 13. NASS CLAIMED ALL THAT WAS NECESSARY NOW WAS FOR FOREIGN GOVTS TO " MAKE A DECLARATION OF INTENT TO PUT ARABIC IN THE PASSPORTS OF PERSONS GOING TO ARABIC COUNTRIES"; THIS WOULD OF COURSE BE FOLLOWED BY " NEGOTIATION OF THE DETAILS". THE RCC HAD APPROVED THIS POSITION HE DESCRIBED. IT WAS GENERALLY AGREED AT THIS MEETING THAT THIS WAS NOT A CALL FOR COMPROMISE BUT FOR CAPITULATION. ITALIAN AMB MAROTTA WAS NOT SO SURE.

D. MAROTTA THEN, AND THROUGHOUT MEETING, AGAIN URGED HIS COMPROMISE IDEAS CENTERING ON A RUBBER STAMP AS " SPECIAL TRAVEL DOCUMENT IN ARABIC (REFTEL PARA 5 B AND C). MAROTTA PLEADED ELOQUENTLY THAT UNLESS HE COULD REPORT WE AGREED ON SOME COMPROMISE HE THOUGHT HIS GOVT WOULD GO IT ALONE. HE ALSO ARGUED FRANCE OBVIOUSLY HAD BEST POSITION HERE AND SHOULD TAKE LEAD IN DISCUSSING ANY COMMON POSITION WITH LARG, AT RCC LEVEL. FRENCH AMB GEORGY WAS AGREEABLE TO MAKE CASE FOR ANY AGREED POSITION. OTHERS, PARTICULARLY THE TURKS AND DUTCH, ARGUED THAT ANY COMPROMISE WAS LIKE GIVING THE LARG A FINGER; N
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PAGE 01 TRIPOL 00624 02 OF 02 111350 Z

43
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INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 PRS-01 VO-01 SCA-01 PPT-01 L-02

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P R 111157 Z MAY 73
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AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 TRIPOLI 0624

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F. THERE WAS GENERAL SCEPTICISM ON THIS LAST POINT, AND FRENCH AMB GEORGY LAUNCHED INTO AN EXPOSITION OF WHAT MERGER WILL AND WILL NOT BE " ACCORDING TO MY INFO FROM RCC MEMBERS AND OTHERS". TO BE SURE IT WILL BE REAL SO FAR AS CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND OTHER MINOR MATTERS ARE CONCERNED. BUT THE JOINT COMMITTEES ARE BEHIND IN THEIR WORK AND ALL THE GUT ISSUES ARE UNRESOLVED. FOR INSTANCE, PM JALLUD HAD ASSURED HIM THE LIBYAN RCC WOULD CONTINUE AFTER SEPT 1. THERE WAS NO VISIBLE PROGRESS ON RESOLVING THE CRUCIAL QUESTIONS OF FINANCIAL INTEGRATION. MOST IMPORTANTLY FOR US, THERE WAS EQUALLY NO AGREEMENT ON MERGER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ESTABLISHMENTS
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PAGE 02 TRIPOL 00624 02 OF 02 111350 Z

EXCEPT THAT IT WOULD TAKE PLACE. DIPLOMATIC MERGER WAS IN FACT THE " MAIN STUMBLING BLOCK"-- HOW TO DIVIDE AMBASSADORSHIPS, SHOULD ACCREDITED AMBS PRESENT NEW LETTERS OF CREDENCE, ARE EXISTING TREATIES TO CONTINUE IN EFFECT, ETC? FOR INSTANCE, RIGHT NOW THE TUNISIANS ARE REFUSING TO SIGN SIX ACCORDS WITH THE LARG UNLESS THEY GET CLARIFICATIONS. THEY POINT OUT THAT THE ONE RELATING TO BORDER CROSSINGS IS FINE IF YOU ARE TALKING ONLY ABOUT TWO MILLION PEOPLE (LIBYANS) BUT CERTAINLY NOT SO IF THE FIGURE IS 37 MILLION (EGYPTIANS AND LIBYANS). IN THE LATTER CASE, IN FACT, TUNISIA WOULD " REINFORCE" ITS BORDER.

G. A CONSENSUS THEN BEGAN TO EMERGE, SUMMARIZED BY WERNER AS FOLLOWS: HOLDING UP OUR VISAS DOES NOT PUT SIGNIFICANT PRESSURE ON LARG. CONCEIVABLY THE VOLUNTARY DEPARTURE OF DIPLOMATS HERE, TO THE POINT OF CLOSING MISSIONS, WOULD MAKE AN IMPRESSION-- BUT OUR OWN GOVERNMENTS WOULD NOT BUY THAT. ON THE OTHER HAND, IF WE DO NOTHING WE ARE GOING TO DWINDLE AWAY ANYWAY. WE SHOULD REPORT THIS AND ASK OUR GOVTS FOR A DECISION ONE WAY OR THE OTHER. THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE TO THE DEMISE OF OUR MISSIONS WE CAN ARGEE UPON IS TO INSTITUTE, THROUGH NATO' S NEXT POLAD MEETING THIS SUBJECT, A COMMON POSITION AS FOLLOWS: WE TELL RPT TELL THE LARG THAT WE ARE ALL GOING TO START, ON BASIS OF RECIPROCITY,

TO PLACE RUBBER STAMP IN ARABIC ON PASSPORTS OUR RESIDENTS IN
AND TRAVELERS TO LAR WHO ARE NOT ALREADY EXEMPTED BY LARG ITSELF;
THIS MEANS WE WILL NOT ISSUE VISAS ON PASSPORTS IN ARABIC
ONLY UNLESS LARG RECIPROCATES IN OUR (PRINCIPLE) NATIONAL
LANGUAGES, E. G., LARG WOULD HAVE TO START STAMP
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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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